

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW CLAIM:

14. (New) An apparatus for sensing the absolute value of the rotational position of a shaft, said apparatus comprising:
- a) a first single-turn rotary encoder arranged at one end of the shaft and configured to sense the shaft's rotational position within a single revolution thereof, said first single-turn rotary encoder being circumscribed by an outer periphery, and including a first sensor and a first permanent magnet (22) coacting therewith, said first permanent magnet being arranged on an end face of said shaft (14);
  - b) a second rotary encoder unit, including a second sensor (46) and a second permanent magnet (44) coacting therewith, for sensing the number of revolutions of said shaft, said second rotary encoder unit comprising:
    - i) a reduction gear linkage drivable by the shaft and being arranged annularly around a portion of the shaft, said reduction gear linkage having an output element;
    - ii) a rotary element (42) connected to said output element, said rotary element being located beyond said one end of the shaft but along a common axis therewith, said second permanent magnet (44) being arranged on the rotary element (42);
    - iii) a second single-turn rotary encoder configured to sense the rotational position of said rotary element within a single revolution thereof; and
    - iv) a connecting member for drivably connecting said output element of the reduction gear linkage to said rotary element, said connecting member extending around the outer periphery of the first single-turn rotary encoder;
- and wherein the sensors (26, 46') of the first (30) and the second (48') single-turn rotary encoders are arranged on a common sensor carrier (106) formed, at least locally, from a magnetically shielded material, in order to magnetically uncouple the sensors (26, 46') of the first and second rotary encoders (30, 48') from one another.